



Office of the Warden

July 12, 2017

Hon. Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education
22nd Floor Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Mr. Matt Reid, Chair
Thames Valley District School Board
P.O. Box 5888
London, ON N6A 5L1

Dear Minister and Chair:

Elgin County Council adopted the following resolution at its meeting held on July 11, 2017:

“THAT Elgin County Council support MPP Jeff Yurek’s letter of June 29, 2017 urging, among other items, the Thames Valley District School Board to revisit its decisions to close Sparta, Springfield and New Sarum schools and authorize the Warden to issue a letter on behalf of Council delineating all of Council’s concerns with this matter.

- Carried Unanimously,
(signed) Warden Grant Jones”

Elgin County Council recognizes the importance of rural education and was deeply concerned when guidelines developed with urban schools in mind were applied in a vastly different rural setting and used as the basis to close several schools within our jurisdiction. The Ministry of Education has now announced that the guidelines used to review schools for potential closures will be overhauled and that all new reviews will be halted. As these guidelines have been deemed too flawed to make decisions going forward, it is Council’s belief that they were also flawed when they were used to rationalize the closing of Sparta, Springfield, and New Sarum schools. As such, Elgin County Council urges you, Minister, to place a retroactive moratorium on school closures that were made under the aforementioned guidelines.

Please find attached related correspondence from Elgin-Middlesex-London MPP Jeff Yurek, Thames Valley District School Board Chair Matt Reid and Elgin County Council.

We look forward to your response.

Yours truly,

Grant Jones,
Warden

Enclosure

cc Laura Elliott, Director of Education, Thames Valley District School Board
James Todd & Chris Goodall, Thames Valley District School Board Trustees
Meagan Ruddock, Rural School Delegation
Local Elgin County Municipal Partners
Jeff Yurek, MPP, Elgin-Middlesex-London
Marcus Ryan, Community Schools Alliance

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